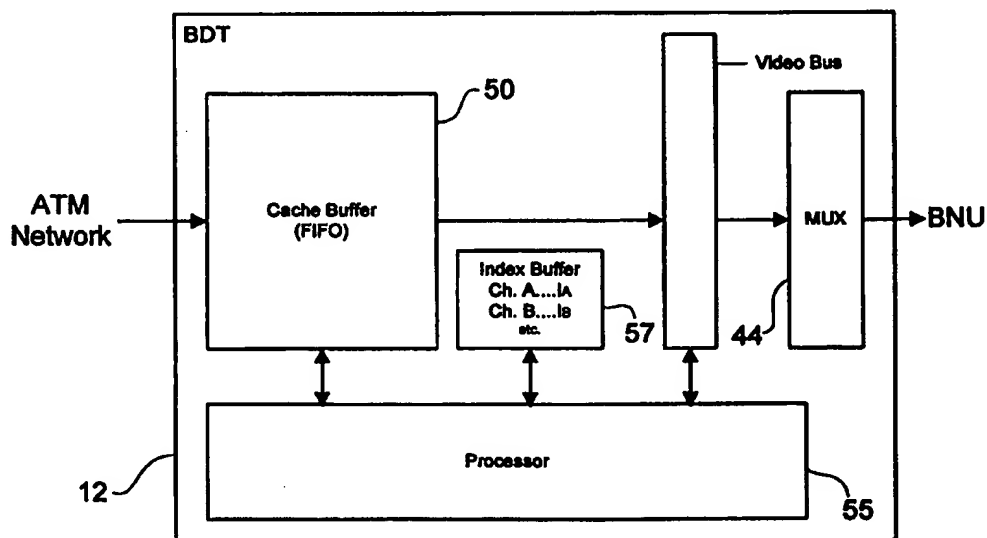


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<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>H04N 7/10, 7/14</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/09741</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 25 February 1999 (25.02.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/13755 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 30 June 1998 (30.06.98)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/915,467                      20 August 1997 (20.08.97)                      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> NEXT LEVEL COMMUNICATIONS [US/US]; 6085 State Farm Road, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (US).  <b>(72) Inventor:</b> MAO, Weidong; 203 Salem Court #12, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> BLASKO, John, P.; 111 North Broad Street, Doylestown, PA 18901 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>

**(54) Title:** CHANNEL CHANGER FOR USE IN A SWITCHED DIGITAL VIDEO SYSTEM**(57) Abstract**

A rapid channel changer for use in a digital broadband access system. The subject rapid channel changer includes a cache buffer (50) for storing the video data and a processor (55) for detecting and pointing to the synchronization frames. When a subscriber's channel change request is received by the processing unit, the corresponding video signal can be quickly accessed and directed downstream to the subscriber, since the processor (55) can immediately synchronize the video data without having to wait for the next synchronization frame.